



TIED UP WITH BOW MAKING

A CHALLENGE HAS BECOME a lucrative hobby for Mary Cooper of Rosefield Drive. A few years ago each Kinette was asked to raise five dollars, so Mary decided to make fancy bows for sale. From this modest beginning she developed a small business at home, making bows for a few stores. Christmas, of course, is the busiest time of the year, but she does sell them all year round. Four stores in town handle her bows.

Municipal Utilities to Pay More for 1968 Power

Escalating wages, salaries, interest rates and prices in general make it imperative that Ontario Hydro's interim rates for power supplied to 355 municipal electrical utilities be increased in 1968, Chairman George Gathercole has announced.

He pointed out that the new rates would mean an increase in power costs to the individual municipalities, although not necessarily to the ultimate consumer.

Ontario Hydro's interim rate increases cover inflationary pressures experienced in 1967 and anticipated for 1968 and become effective February 1, 1968. There will not be an automatic adjustment of final consumer rates because of this increase. Some municipal utilities will be able to absorb it, but in the long run, the effect of rising costs for wholesale power will be translated into higher rates to the consumer.

Mr. Gathercole said Ontario Hydro and the municipal electrical utilities have been fighting the trend of rising costs for a number of years. In some instances there have been reductions in rates and in many other municipalities there have been no increases in power costs in 10 or more years.

This is demonstrated by the fact that in spite of sharply rising wages, interest rates and costs, the average residential cost per kilowatt-hour in 1965 and 1966 was 1.13 cents compared with 1.17 cents in 1966.

Mr. Gathercole said although Hydro's price performance had been exceptional, it had no special immunity to the strong forces of inflation. It could not continue to absorb escalating costs at the rate the economy had been experiencing and the result is a regrettable but unavoidable rise in electric power rates.

The Hydro Chairman pointed

out one of the principal problems is the rising cost of money in the marketplace. "Our borrowing must cover new money requirements as well as refinancing for maturing bonds. A decade ago Hydro was able to acquire money at 4 per cent or less, but its most recent bond issue carried a coupon rate of 6 1/2 per cent.

"Our costs have also gone up very substantially in wages and salaries. Hydro's increasingly complex system which now includes the latest in nuclear technology requires the most able and competent workers on our staff and we have to pay competitive wages and salaries to keep them," Mr. Gathercole said.

And he hoped prices of materials, equipment and construction contracts, on which Hydro is spending well over \$200 million a year, are undergoing the same pronounced upward trend.

Explaining the interim rates, Mr. Gathercole said the 355 municipal utilities which purchase wholesale power from Ontario Hydro are billed monthly on the basis of these interim rates, which vary for each utility. Monthly bills are adjusted to the actual cost of supplying power at the end of the year, by what is called the "13th bill". In the past, the year's operations resulted in a refund for most municipal hydro-electric utilities.

While the increase in the cost of wholesale power supplied by Ontario Hydro to the utilities must ultimately be borne by the consumers, there is no automatic adjustment of municipal rates to these increases and others will not depend upon their financial position. Others may require a greater increase than the adjustment in the wholesale cost of power because of spiraling local operating costs.

Orange was Christmas Treat in Bygone Years

At the regular Cub-Scout meeting in the Community Centre Chris Goggin was invited into the Ballinafad Cub Scout pack. Then on Saturday evening 12 cubs, three leaders and a parent enjoyed a skating party at Hillsburgh arena. In place of the usual weekly meeting on the 20th there will be a Christmas party for cubs and their parents.

The Christmas meeting of the W.I. was held at the home of Mrs. L. Jamieson on Wednesday, Dec. 6 with Mrs. F. Smith presiding. The Roll Call was answered by "Childhood memories of Christmas." There were many interesting answers, mentioned was the fact that Santa brought very little then, usually an orange which was a treat in those days. Mrs. Jesse McEnery gave a full report of current events for the past month. Mrs. R. Swindlehurst and Mrs. T. Given were in charge of the programme which consisted of a few competitions and games of bingo. During the business period, ten dollar donations were voted to be given to the Sunshine School, Muscular Dystrophy and to the Community Centre towards the candy for the Christmas tree at the concert. It was decided to once again give Christmas boxes to the sick and shut-ins in the community to assure them, that they haven't been forgotten. A letter was read from Bang Kum Ja in Korea, a gift of money was sent for her Christmas and Birthday.

A gift exchange between members followed by the lunch concluded the meeting.

The Ballinafad Sleepy-Time Gals met for the eighth and final meeting of this unit.

The leaders discussed points to remember when judging a garment. The group work was having the girls judge each others pyjamas and nightgowns.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Allen on the birth of a son.

Mrs. N. Sinclair was admitted to Georgetown Hospital on Sunday a speedy recovery is wished for her. Also for Mr. C. Plouffe who is confined to the same hospital.

—Margaret Jamieson

Fined \$100 For Common Assault

A Brampton man who refused to be arrested on a Georgetown street, October 22 because he "already had enough money problems" was fined \$100 for common assault Wednesday.

The man hit Constable Derek Hall in the face and tore buttons from his tunic after climbing out of a police cruiser when told he would be run in.

Charges of assaulting a police officer, driving while impaired and having liquor, were withdrawn.

"You could have landed behind bars," Magistrate James R. Black told the accused.

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